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Marie Kirkwood
In Charge of Publicity

The three silver chalices and paten just purchased by the J. H. Wade Fund and shown this summer, in the 35th Anniversary Exhibition at The Cleveland Museum of Art are such objects as the fabled Holy Grail must have been. Actually inscriptions upon them in Greek prove that they must have been made before 434 A.D., which makes them the oldest silver altar pieces in the world.

They were excavated at the side of a lost town of Rosafa on the right bank of the Euphrates in Syria. It was here that two Roman officers, Bacchus and Sergius, had been martyred because they were Christians.

The soft silver from which they are made is dulled by time as if seen through a mist but they have taken on pearly tints from the patina of their long burial. One chalice has a ring of incrustation at an angle around its bowl showing the line of the earth where it was held covered, testimony of how rudely they must have been flung and how long left in the ground.